

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A coated steel product comprising a metallic strip material, ~~characterized in that said strip~~ wherein the metallic strip material has a coating comprising an electrically insulating layer doped with an alkali metal or a mixture of alkali metals, the thermal expansion coefficient of said metallic strip material being less than $12 \times 10^{-6} \text{ K}^{-1}$ in the temperature range 0-600°C, the electrically insulating layer ~~comprises~~ comprising at least one oxide layer ~~and the oxide layer consists~~ consisting essentially of a dielectric oxide selected from the group consisting of any of the following dielectric oxides: Al_2O_3 , TiO_2 , HfO_2 , Ta_2O_5 and Nb_2O_5 or mixtures of these oxides, preferably Al_2O_3 and/or TiO_2 .
2. (Currently Amended) Coated steel product according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the metallic strip material has a thickness of 5 to 200 μm , ~~preferably 10 to 100 μm .~~
3. (Currently Amended) Coated steel product according to claim 1, wherein ~~claims 1 or 2, characterized in that~~ the electrically insulating layer has a multi-layer constitution of 2 to 10 layers, ~~to ensure efficient electrical insulation.~~

4. (Currently Amended) Coated steel product according to claim 3, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein each individual oxide layer has a thickness of between 0,04 0.01 and 2 μm , preferably ~~between 0,1 and 1,5 μm .~~
5. (Currently Amended) Coated steel product according to claim 1 ~~or 4, characterized in that~~ wherein only the layer, or the two layers, most distal from the metallic strip substrate ~~is/are~~ are doped with alkali metal(s).
6. (Currently Amended) Coated steel product according to claim 1, wherein ~~any of the previous, characterized in that the~~ a total thickness of the oxide coating may be up to 20 μm , preferably 1 to 5 μm .
7. (Currently Amended) Coated steel product according to claim 1, wherein ~~any of the previous claims, characterized in that~~ the electrically insulating layer is coated by a conducting layer, ~~preferably mainly made of molybdenum.~~
8. (Currently Amended) Coated steel product according to claim 7, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the conducting layer is made mainly from molybdenum and the ~~molybdenum~~ conducting layer has a thickness of between 0,04 0.01 and 5 μm , ~~preferably 0,1 and 2 μm .~~
9. (Currently Amended) Coated steel product according to claim 1, wherein ~~any of the previous claims, characterized in that~~ the alkali metal is either Li, Na or K, or mixtures thereof, ~~preferably Na.~~

10. (Currently Amended) Coated steel product according to claim 3 ~~or 4~~, characterized ~~in that~~ wherein the individual layers in the multi-layer structure are either made of the same metal oxide or of different metal oxides and that each individual layer is made of one metal oxide or of a mixture of two or more metal oxides.

11. (Currently Amended) Coated steel product according to claim 1, wherein the coated steel product ~~any of the previous claims, characterized in that~~ it is suitable as a substrate material for the production of flexible Cu(In,Ga)Se₂ (CIGS) solar cells.

12. (Currently Amended) Method for producing a coated steel product according to ~~any of claims 1-11, characterized in that~~ claim 1, wherein the electrically insulating layer(s) and the electrically conducting layer(s) are all deposited in a roll-to-roll electronic beam evaporation process.

13. (Currently Amended) A flexible Cu(In,Ga)Se₂ (CIGS) solar cell ~~characterized in that it comprises~~ comprising a coated steel product according to ~~any of claims 1-11~~ claim 1.

14. (New) Coated steel product according to claim 1, wherein the dielectric oxide is Al₂O₃ or TiO₂.

15. (New) Coated steel product according to claim 2, wherein the thickness of the metallic strip material is 10 to 100 µm.

16. (New) Coated steel product according to claim 1, wherein the electrically insulating layer has a multi-layer constitution with an electrically insulating effective number of layers.
17. (New) Coated steel product according to claim 4, wherein the thickness of each individual oxide layer is between 0.1 and 1.5 μm .
18. (New) Coated steel product according to claim 6, wherein the total thickness of the oxide coating is 1 to 5 μm .
19. (New) Coated steel product according to claim 7, wherein the conducting layer is mainly made of molybdenum.
20. (New) Coated steel product according to claim 8, wherein the thickness of the conducting layer is between 0.1 and 2 μm .
21. (New) Coated steel product according to claim 9, wherein the alkali metal is Na.